

# TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

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<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>AFRICAN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (AYEDI)</b>
<b>REGION/COUNTRY</b>	AFRICA/Uganda
<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	December 30, 2013 – December 29, 2017
<b>FISCAL YEAR &amp; FUNDING LEVEL</b>	FY2013: USD 3,000,000 Matching Funds: USD 285,908
<b>PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED</b>	<p>Uganda has the youngest population in the world, with a median age of 15 years. Twenty-one percent of Ugandans are between the ages of 15-24. In 2009-2010, 60 percent of Ugandan youth age 15-24 were in the labor force. They face a number of challenges, including poverty, under-employment, unemployment, and lack of relevant education and skills for employment. It is estimated that 3 out of 10 youth in Africa live on less than \$1 per day. Models developed by the AYEDI project are intended to help respond to this youth bulge.</p> <p>Many Ugandan youth are ill-prepared to secure decent work and are vulnerable to hazardous labor due to a number of factors that may affect them, including: low school completion rates; inadequate formal or vocational training opportunities; insufficient technical and/or soft skills; lack of entrepreneurial skills needed to identify local market opportunities; negative perceptions about youth; and pervasive poverty.</p> <p>Although agriculture is the largest area of employment in Uganda, youth often see farming as a “last resort.” Moreover, youth are not generally positioned to take advantage of agribusiness opportunities along the value chain. The informal sector (<i>jua kali</i>) meanwhile employs 58% of the non-agricultural labor force, but is plagued by low productivity.</p>
<b>TARGETS</b>	<p>The project targets 4,277 vulnerable youth ages 15-18 years old for prevention from the worst forms of child labor. The project will be implemented in the Gulu, Lira, Iganga, and Bugiri districts of Northern and Eastern Uganda. 40,000 indirect beneficiaries will also be targeted through a range of activities, including the dissemination of occupational safety materials, links to existing Village Savings and</p>

African Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (AYEDI)

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U.S. Department of Labor, International Labor Affairs Bureau

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Loans Associations (VSLA) groups for caregivers, training of teachers in life skills and HIV prevention, and community awareness-raising and community mobilization activities conducted by youth.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project will target vulnerable youth ages 15 to 18, promoting education and vocational training and decent work opportunities for those of appropriate work age. The project will also seek to enhance livelihoods for youth and their households, support civic engagement of youth, and encourage youth to take on leadership roles within their communities.

Project outcomes include:

- Outcome 1: Increase Youth Access to Economic and Social Services;
- Outcome 2: Increase Percentage of Youth Attending Primary or Secondary Education or Engaged in Vocational Training;
- Outcome 3: Improve Youth's Ability to Secure Decent Work Opportunities; and
- Outcome 4: Engage Youth in Civic Activities in their Communities (national and local), including Leadership Positions.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- Through AYEDI clubs, the project will provide youth with rights-based education, life skills, occupational safety training, study tours, and career guidance. The project will offer three education pathways: an Integrated Functional Literacy Program to provide youth with no or little formal education with functional literacy and numeracy skills; a Non-formal Education Trade Certificate program targeting youth interested in pursuing work in a specific trade; and enrollment in secondary school for primary school graduates.
- Youth will be provided with training in entrepreneurship and agribusiness (including through Junior Farmer Field Schools), linked to companies to start a microfranchise or microenterprise, and/or linked to internships.
- The project will link youth and their caregivers to existing Village Savings and Loans Associations

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(VSLA)

- The project will help youth to engage in civic activities; build youth's leadership and advocacy skills; and link youth to graduates of the President's Young African Leadership Initiative and Embassy's Youth Council.
- The project will support youth to become part of the local government's community-level structures and ensure youth issues are adequately addressed in local government policies.

**GRANTEE**

World Education, Inc.

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

Straight Talk Foundation, Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO), and RECO Industries Ltd.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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